Jany 27, 1900. — 1000 — 10.50 — Willett.

OUTLINE OF WORK AND BY-LAWS

OF THE WOMAN'S BOARD OF HOME MISSIONS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Outline of Work and By-Laws.

PREAMBLE.

The great need of enlarged Home Mission work, which the changed condition of our country had made apparent, and the important factor woman had come to be in Foreign Missions, influenced the General Assembly of 1875 to recommend the organization of a "Woman's Home Missionary Society, with auxiliary societies, under the advice and counsel of the Board of Home Missions, or its officers" (p. 489). The Assembly of 1876 went still further and adopted the following: "We suggest to the Assembly to urge and impress this good work upon the women of all our churches, to recommend a thorough organization. * * * It is further suggested to the Synods to appoint annually a committee in each Synod" (p. 31). In 1877, the Assembly again urged organization on church lines.

In response to these suggestions, a call was issued, and on December 12, 1878, the Synodical Committees met in the Bible House in

New York, organized "The Woman's Executive Committee (now Board) of Home Missions" and adopted a series of "plans and regulations" for work. The plan of work was—to co-operate with the Board of Home Missions, undertaking no work without its approval.

OBJECT.

The special duties assumed were as follows, viz.: 1st. To raise money for the support of the *Educational Work* under the care of the Board of Home Missions; namely, teachers' salaries, school buildings and equipments, and for general Home Mission purposes. 2d. To diffuse information regarding Home Mission work, and to increase interest in the cause. 3d. To provide Home Missionary boxes.

In the enlargement of the work finding the need of additional help, it was resolved at the ninth annual meeting, held in Omaha, May 27, 1887, that an Advisory Committee of representative women from the churches of New York and vicinity be called to aid the Executive Committee (now Board) its members having a right to vote on all questions coming before the Board at their regular meetings. Authority was given the Board to enlarge this Committee from time to time at discretion.

1. The Board.
2. Advisory Committee.

From the Board and Advisory Committee the following Sub-Committees are appointed:

1. Ways and Means Committee.
2. Nominating Committee.
3. Finance and Building Committee.
4. Publication Committee.
5. Magazine Committee.
6. Committee on Monthly Meeting.
7. Committee on Devotional Meetings.
8. Committee on Hospitality.
9. Committees on Mission Fields.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

The stated meetings of the Board and Advisory Committees shall be held the first and third Tuesdays in each month. Three shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE II.

All meetings shall be opened with prayer and the reading of Scripture, and the order of business shall be as follows:

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Reading of Minutes.
3. Treasurer's Report.
4. Bills Presented.
5. Report of Secretary on orders of previous meetings until attended to.
6. Unfinished Business.
7. Report *ad interim*.
8. Reports of Departments, and Standing and Special Committees.
9. New Business.
10. Close with Prayer.

ARTICLE III.

The WAYS and MEANS COMMITTEE shall transact all business which may occur in the interim between the regular meetings of the Board and such other business as may be referred to it by the Board.

ARTICLE IV.

The NOMINATING COMMITTEE shall have supervision of the membership of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE; it shall propose additions when desirable in order that the Committee may be sufficiently strong in active members to maintain an efficient force of workers; and shall recommend the withdrawal of the names of such members as do not or cannot give sufficient time to the work.

ARTICLE V.

The FINANCE and BUILDING COMMITTEE shall examine and approve all bills before payment is ordered; consider and recommend all salaries paid by the BOARD; plan and suggest methods to increase contributions; keep thoroughly informed of the condition of the treasury, examining all school expenses quarterly, rendering report of same together with regular reports of office expense as well as other matters pertaining to finance.

It shall examine and approve all plans and specifications for buildings to be erected by the Woman's Board before recommending them for adoption; shall recommend repairs, additions and alterations in buildings, and confer with the Superintendent of School Work in regard to any other matters pertaining to the property in care of the Woman's Board.

ARTICLE VI.

The PUBLICATION COMMITTEE shall examine and recommend all publications of the Literature Department of the Woman's Board. It shall endeavor to keep a supply of fresh literature constantly on hand, adding from time to time new leaflets, either through publication of manuscript or purchase from other societies.

ARTICLE VII.

The MAGAZINE COMMITTEE shall give such assistance to the Editor as she may desire, and as an Advisory Committee can be called together by her for consultation when necessary.

ARTICLE VIII.

The COMMITTEE on MONTHLY MEETINGS shall have in charge the conduct of the meeting, invite speakers and present such programme on the topic for the month as shall be helpful to delegates from auxiliary societies.

ARTICLE IX.

The COMMITTEE on DEVOTIONAL MEETINGS shall provide leaders for all meetings except the monthly missionary meeting, and see that matters of interest from the field and objects for prayer are presented.

ARTICLE X.

COMMITTEES on MISSION FIELDS shall have for their duty the cheer and encouragement of all teachers on their respective fields, securing for them friendly correspondents, who shall send from time to time letters which shall keep them in touch with the best life of

the day, marked articles of value in current publications, helpful leaflets, aiding and inspiring to a higher Christian life, etc.; the writer indicating that no reply will be expected, in order that the teachers be not overtaxed.

They shall endeavor to increase information among the churches regarding their fields.

They shall not encourage the teachers to look to them for material help, all such matters being decided by the Woman's Board and the Board of Home Missions.

ARTICLE XI.

These by-laws shall not be altered or changed except by a two-thirds vote of the members present at a regular meeting, notice of the proposed changes having been given at a previous meeting.

REGULATIONS.

1. Any member of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE, who fails in attendance upon the regular business meetings for three consecutive months, without explanation, shall cease to be a member of the ADVISORY COMMITTEE and her name shall be stricken from the list.

2. The CHAIRMAN of each committee shall divide the work among the members of her

Committee in such a manner that every one shall have some part of it under her direct supervision.

3. The action of all Committees must be submitted to the Board for confirmation.

4. The President and Secretary are ex-officio members of all Committees.

5. The Chairman of each Committee is ex-officio a member of the Ways and Means Committee.

No. 176, 2d Ed., 1, 1900.

officer left her home in Central New York to join her husband at the military post at Santa Fé, New Mexico. Quickly her eyes were opened, her ears unstopped to the pitiful needs of the women and children of the Spanish-speaking people and the Pueblo Indians of the Southwest. At once she sent back to the dear mother in the old home the plea for help for these people. That mother, as mothers will, at once responded to the daughter's appeal. She went out among her friends; the letter was read and re-read many times; the story told and told again, and a little company of praying women, in August of 1877, banded themselves together in the Master's name at Auburn, N. Y., for mission school work in Arizona and New Mexico. A wide field and a handful, comparatively, of Christian women to occupy it.

Early in the seventies God led one of his young servants from Illinois over plains and mountains into Utah in search of health. While awaiting renewed strength he at once set about his Master's business; and while intent upon this found the only real solution of the Mormon problem, or one of its strongest factors, in Christian education for the Mormon children and youth.

The need of more aggressive work among the nation's "wards" was being felt by Christian philanthropists, as the strong westward tide of immigration surged here and there, sweeping the red men on before it to the unoccupied plains and among the distant mountain ranges, with ever narrowing limits. "The children of these wards *must* be cared for in a more practical way, and quickly," was the substance of the many pleas of Christian men and women, and the mission industrial school was being slowly evolved.

Though undertaken later, the leadings of God's hand are just as plainly shown in the *unplanned* beginnings

of the work among a "people passed by" in the very heart of our own country—that class of mountain people so largely of Scotch-Irish Presbyterian ancestry. In the spring of 1879 two consecrated women went South as Bible readers among the Freedmen. The Lord had other work for them, and in an old log cabin upon a piece of ground that fifteen years before an aged servant of God had set apart and dedicated to Christian education, the first mission school among these poor white people was opened. The Woman's Board of Home Missions was not then organized, but later this school came to this body, a sacred trust transferred by the Ladies' Board of Missions of New York.

Other portions of this wide field were also opening, especially in the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee When the founder of the "Five Points Missions" of New York sought renewed strength in that region, little did he foresee the purposes of God in permitting him to tarry there "awhile" for rest. Soon his sympathy was aroused in behalf of the "Mountaineers," and ere long he found rest by opening a small school for the poor untaught girls in the mountains about Asheville. As the field unfolded in its wideness to his astonished vision, he felt called of God to this new work; as its urgency and magnitude became more apparent he was constrained to call for help.

Thus from varied sources and peculiar classes, through agencies God-given, came to the church a knowledge of the sin, ignorance, aye, heathenism, abounding in large sections of this Christian land.

Not planned by any body of men or company of women, but blessed of God, the work was started in these out-of-the-way places. These small beginnings here and there, like the disturbed waters of a placid lake once set in motion, sent out their influences in ever widening circles, till the Church was stirred to